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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/764,097
	Filing Date	January 23, 2004
	First Named Inventor	Brauch et al.
	Art Unit	1723
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	SMB-PT088

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Randolph J. Huis Volpe and Koenig, P.C. Reg. No. 34,626
Signature	
Date	7/30/2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Typed or printed name	Randolph J. Huis
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Date	7/30/2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Per Rule 1.704(d), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, copy enclosed, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

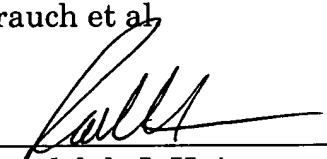
Each of the references was cited in a Search Report dated July 5, 2004 from counterpart German Application No. 203 16 560.8, copy enclosed. Of the non-English documents cited, DE 42 01 693 C1 was cited as Category A (technological background) with respect to claims 1-3, 5, and 8. DE 32 48 455 A1 was cited as Category A and Category D (appearing in the background of the application) with respect to claim 1. DE 94 00 471 U1 was cited as Category A with respect to claims 10 and 11. DE 81 06 555 U1 was cited as Category A with respect to claims 1-3, 5, and 8.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider these documents and return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form indicating his/her consideration of the cited materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Brauch et al.

By

  
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Enclosures



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				APPLICANT Brauch et al.				
				FILING DATE January 23, 2004		GROUP 1723		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AA	81 06 555.8	11/1981	Germany				X
	AB	32 48 455	07/1984	Germany			*	
	AC	42 01 693	04/1993	Germany			*	
	AD	94 00 471.4	06/1994	Germany				X
				*= Abstract Only				
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
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